

## ERME VALLEY HARRIERS

### **Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

**Held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015**

**An Attendance list was taken.**

#### **1. Apologies.**

These were received from Helen Norris, Cleo Perry, Adrian Mawson, Jo Edwards, Mark Livermore & Mike Hanson.

#### **2. Minutes of last A.G.M.**

These were proposed by Dave Fox and seconded by Laurence Harris.  
The minutes were adopted as a true record.

#### **3. Matters Arising.**

None

#### **4. Officers Reports.**

The Chairman's and Secretary's reports as well as the Statement of Accounts had been distributed prior to the meeting.

#### **Chairman's AGM Report 2015 - Paul Ross**

The last year for the club and its members has been eventful and rewarding. Our athletes have continued to promote the Club by giving their best efforts in events both near and far and in a wide range of different competitions.

Our junior section continues to thrive with large numbers at training sessions but in some cases there is still an issue to get them to compete for the club. As always we could do with some more coaches to assist at training sessions and officials and volunteers to help at events. We have similar issues with the senior side in the club where we are looking to recruit Leaders and Coaches to support athletes.

Early in the year the Club was short listed for the Community Club of the Year and Will Battershill was short listed for the Amateur Sports Personality of the Year at the Plymouth Sports Personality Awards Evening. Unfortunately neither won but both received "Commended" awards. The club has also featured recently in Athletics Weekly with a two page spread about the Club.

We organized two race events as a club this year. Both the Ivybridge 10K and the Erme Valley Relays had record entries. This demonstrates that they are well organized and managed as runners return year on year to support the events. I would like to thank Ian Crossley (Race Director of the 10K) and Jo Edwards (Race Director of the Relays) for the work they put in to ensure their success.

Also many thanks to all the other club members and their families who came along and helped at the races.

The Club has some good developing juniors within our ranks who have achieved some great results in individual competitions and representing the Armada Athletics Network Composite Team in the SW League to help the team gain promotion.

In other competition this year Will Battershill represented Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the World U20 2000metre Steeplechase Championships in Columbia where he made the final. He then went to represent England in the Home Nations Mountain Running U20 Championships in Wales coming 4<sup>th</sup> overall and first England Team member home in the Gold Medal winning team. Sam Trigg won gold in the UKA U23 Triple Jump Championships. Our Ladies team of Alison McEwing, Alison Thorn and Cleo Perry retained their 3<sup>rd</sup> placing at the British Athletics Half Marathon Championships held in Cardiff. We have also had athletes competing successfully in the Ultra Distance and Triathlon events.

Our senior members continue to travel the country competing on behalf of Erme Valley Harriers in various competitions with some success. Thanks to all of you.

We continue to try to improve communications within the club with the use of The Harrier, Website, e mails and Facebook. I am indebted to Dave Fox for producing the Harrier, Keith Reed for looking after our website and Cleo Perry and Louise Bristow for leading on our Facebook page. Thanks also to all contributors for updates, stories and photos. We have recently carried out a survey of our Club members, thanks to all who completed the survey. Feedback on this exercise will be given tonight.

During the course of this year we have moved our Senior Members base to Ivybridge Rugby Club. As most of you are aware we have been looking for somewhere to call our base for some years and have talked to numerous facilities in Ivybridge without success. The committee decision was taken after numerous meetings with Ivybridge Rugby Club representatives.

Socially we again have tried to provide a variety of activities. We held a very successful presentation evening with a great attendance from across our membership base. To celebrate our move to the Rugby Club we held an Easter Relay event at the club which was enjoyed by all who attended. We also held a BBQ and Fun Day that attracted a lot of members and their families who were enjoying the day until the rains came and ended the day a bit earlier than planned. We also have our Christmas Party and Disco planned for early December. Attendance at our Away Days again this year has fluctuated a little but we still had some good evenings and some interesting runs. Thanks to all those who supplied ideas for venues and routes. We would welcome any new ideas for Away Day routes and venues and any ideas for Social Events for Club Members.

Again we have supported Local Community events and groups this year including assisting Ivybridge Community College to manage events and supporting with equipment for shared use. We also were high profile at Ivybridge Fun Day once again and were on site for The Big Sporting Event. Later in the year we were present at Ivybridge Health Fayre. We also supported the Ivybridge British Legion Group with a donation and at the Ivybridge Remembrance Day Service. We have also donated to the Team Leo Charity.

Club Members continue to commit to supporting events put on by Armada Athletics Network in various roles for which I am grateful.

Erme Valley are fortunate to have so many people committed to supporting the club such as Coaches, Officials, Team Managers and Volunteers. We are lucky to have the commitment of people such as Keith, Jayne, Sharon, Monica, Louise and others.

I would like to thank the current Club committee for their continued support for the club. They work very hard through the year trying to steer the Club in the right direction and manage its affairs. I think we need to look at the current structure of the committee a little and will be looking for support on this.

Finally-once again-thanks to you-our members, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents etc for your support for the Club and its activities.

### **Secretary's Report 2015 - Keith Reed.**

It is interesting to look back at last year's report and realise that not much has changed with the club or the sport in general. The main change for the club has been the change in venue which has gone well in general. There have been some difficulties, as would be expected but we have a good dialogue with the Rugby Club and we are both keen to develop the relationship further. Club membership numbers have again stayed very much the same and currently stands at total of 230. This consists of 96 seniors and 118 juniors of which 61 are under 11 (slightly down on 2014). The others are either volunteers, non-competitive athletes or second claim. We hope we can offer something for everyone and we are really keen to hear from you. The recent survey was a success and the results will be shared with you all at the AGM. It is very much our intention to incorporate your views and ideas into the clubs future development.

The clubs athletes perform very well and continue to do the club proud. This year we had our first International selection with Will Battershill who competed in the World Youth Championships in Columbia. We also took a bronze medal in the ladies team category of the British Athletics Half Marathon Championships held at Cardiff. We also have had a number of athletes who achieved fantastic results at Regional and National level including Triathlon. We are also very much aware that every athletes from the club deserves praise and recognition for what they achieve. We hope that happens through the Harrier, the website and the local press. The track and field season was good with many club records broken and new pb's set. The Cross Country season began well at Plymouth and we have already had one Sportshall league match.

We do still face a continual issue with our juniors which is getting them to compete for the club. We get over 60 juniors at training but we had just 21 at the first Sportshall event. The training sessions are only part of being a club member and the competitions are vital in helping development of an athlete. I know weekends can be difficult for families but we do offer transport to the events which includes supervision of the athlete. We welcome the thoughts of parents on this. This year we did not hold the Hanger Up and Down but the other two races were very successful. Our race directors Jo Edwards and Ian Crossley did a fantastic job. The 10K did well in the end

with numbers but it was very much a last minute rush. It would be good to get entries in much earlier but with so many events now it is very difficult.

The committee has increased in size this year and the new members have contributed well. We are very much indebted to Paul Ross for all he has done this year, particularly in managing the move to the Rugby Club. It has not been without its difficulties, but we will be better off in the long run. Finances will be important going forward but at the moment we are still in a very healthy position. We have also strengthened our links in the community again this year.

As Secretary of the club I spend a lot of time on club matters and keep the website up to date. I am also heavily involved elsewhere in the sport both a Regional Council member for England Athletics and a member of the UK Members Council. I hope these additional roles help me to be a better Secretary for you all.

As said last year I am a self-employed coach and have done work in schools and with other organizations like Active Devon and Marjons. I also get involved with events and work for the Armada Network. I would very much like to continue my work as Club Secretary and would like to develop the club in the way that you all want.

Finally as always I wish to thank my wife Jayne who does so much work for the club as a coach, membership secretary, official and of course my right hand woman. Thanks for your continuing support of the club.

### **Treasurers Report 2015 - Shirley Watson**

Club in a very good position with a healthy balance.

This would not be possible without the profit from our club races.

Junior training fees cover the expenses of hiring the school for Thursday night training. We cover cost of entry fees for Sportshall and Devon League in the summer.

Purchased several new items for club use, Flag, Tent and also steeplechase hurdle.

Fees Paid for use of Ivybridge Rugby Club, and new signage.

Continue to support local charties in the Ivybridge area.

### **5. Newsletter**

Dave thanked everyone who had submitted articles for the newsletter. The newsletter is produced the weekend after committee meeting.

Thanked Paul, Keith and Ben Bristow for their articles.

Dave also commented on the coverage that the club has received through the Sport Gazette, with lots of club photo's online.

Paul then thanked Dave for the article which he put together for Athletics Weekly.

### **6. Election of Officers**

Paul introduced Monica as President who took the Chair and thanked the present Officers for all their hard work over the last year. Then asked them to stand down.

There had been no new nominations received for the Officers positions.

The officers were reelected with a unanimous show of hands.

Paul Ross (Chair)

Keith Reed (Secretary)

Shirley Watson (Treasurer)

Sharon Terry (Welfare Officer)

## **7. Adoption of Committee**

Current members Mark Livermore, Steve Watson, Laurence Harris, Louise Bristow, Liz Bowden were happy to stand. Proposed by Ian Crossley and seconded by Nick MaMahon.

Paul then opened it up to the meeting if any other person wished to join the committee.

Paul then passed to Keith, who said it would be good to have a junior representative. Keith proposed Nathan Brown, and was seconded by Ian Crossley

## **8. Subscriptions 2016**

Committee discussed at last meeting, that we would absorb £1.00 increase for 2016, but look at fees again for 2017.

Proposed by Dan Marks and seconded by Ian Crossley.

## **9. Constitution**

The committee proposed an amendment to item 2 Membership (d) section iv) Old age pensioners to read over 65. Paul asked for a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed. And item 16 Quorum (a) one quarter of the senior membership shall form a quorum at any committee meeting. Item 20 Constitution where a third need to be present. The committee proposed that both items to show 25%. Again asked for a show of hands, again this was unanimously agreed.

## **10. Survey**

Paul thanked Keith for survey which he produced through survey monkey, and Mark Livermore for pulling all the information together.

This was shown on the screen, which Paul went through.

The Responses were good from the floor, and Paul said he would take back to next committee meeting.

## **11. Open Forum.**

Paul mentioned a plaque that Richard Lane had purchased from this year's London marathon. Asked if any club member would be interested.

London Marathon 2016, there is only 1 allocated place for the London Marathon. This is now being guided by the number of senior athletes you have within club membership. We currently have 96.

Over 100 then 2 places would be allocated. 6 members asked for their names to be put into the hat. This year's winner is Russ Mognridge.

We agreed at the Committee meeting held on 02/11/14 to make a donation to the Poppy Appeal of £100, to which Shirley made a presentation to Richard Lane, who is involved with the British Legion. We also purchased a poppy wreath that Paul will be taking along to the Remembrance Service in Ivybridge on Sunday morning.

First Aid Support. Club is looking to put on a course, and asked for names of anyone who would be interested.

Presentation of Summer Handicap Awards

1st. Mark Livermore Joint 1st Kent Watson 3rd. Nick McMahon.

Steve Watson suggested £100. Donation to winner's charity of their choice, and present a small trophy to the winner. Paul asked for a show of hand, this was unanimously agreed.

Paul thanked the staff at the Rugby Club for the refreshments of the use of the facilities

Paul thanked everyone for attending the AGM. The meeting closed at 9.00pm